



QUESTIONS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD NOMINEE - PUBLIC MEMBER

By: Nicole Dube, Principal Analyst

CONNECTICUT MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD (CGS § 20-8A)

The Medical Examining Board is within the Department of Public Health (DPH). By law, it must (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of a practitioner's license, (2) adjudicate complaints against practitioners, and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate. The board must refer all charges filed with the board by DPH to a medical hearing panel within 60 days of receiving the charges. The board reviews a panel's proposed final decision and may adopt or modify the decision or remand it to the panel for further review or the taking of additional evidence.

NOMINEE QUESTIONS

1. What do you consider the board's primary role and function? Is its primary responsibility to the medical community or health care consumers?
2. What particular experience, expertise, and other assets do you bring to the board?
3. In 2012, the board expanded from 15 to 21 members to include public members and representatives of certain medical specialties. Why do think adding public members to the board is important? How has it changed the board's culture and decision making process?
4. The medical board has been publicly criticized for failing to discipline physicians in a timely and appropriate manner. Do you believe that increasing the board's membership has impacted the length of the disciplinary process?

5. Connecticut is one of only a few states that does not have an independent medical board. Do you think the board as currently structured, funded, and administered is appropriate and allows it to successfully meet its statutory duties?
6. How do you view the relationship between the board and DPH? Do you see any need for changes in this relationship?
7. Historically, Connecticut has ranked lower than most other states in its rate of physician discipline. How do you react to this? Should the board take steps to improve its ranking?
8. 2015 legislation (PA 15-88) established requirements for specified health care providers who use telemedicine and required certain health insurers to cover medical services provided through telemedicine. What is your opinion on the practice of prescribing medicine using telemedicine technologies?
9. Like many other states, Connecticut is facing an increase in the number of emergency room visits and drug overdose deaths involving opioid analgesics. In recent years, the legislature addressed prescription drug abuse in a number of ways, including imposing additional continuing medical education requirements on physicians, increasing access to opioid antagonists, and creating a state prescription drug monitoring program. Do you think the board has a role in reducing opioid abuse? If so, what is that role?
10. As a consumer, rather than a physician, do you bring a different perspective to the possible disciplining of a physician?

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